

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, February 18, 2005*

## MPDC ACTIVATES FOUR NEW STATIONARY PHOTO RADAR CAMERAS; 30-DAY WARNING PERIOD BEGINS

As part of its ongoing campaign to curtail speeding and enhance public safety in DC neighborhoods, the MPDC is activating four new stationary photo radar cameras at high-risk locations for speeding in the city. Over the next 30 days, only warning notices will be issued to drivers who are caught speeding aggressively by the four new photo radar cameras. The warning notices are part of an effort to educate motorists about the dangers of speeding and the Police Department's crackdown on this dangerous behavior using photo enforcement technology. Beginning March 21, 2005, aggressive speeders caught by photo radar will receive Notices of Infraction in the mail. While photo-enforced violations do not carry points in the District, the fines for speeding range up to \$200 per violation. The new stationary photo radar cameras are located in the 4700 block of MacArthur Boulevard, NW; the 2800 block of Benning Road, NE; the 100 block of Michigan Avenue, NE; and the 5400 block of 16th Street, NW. In February 2004, the District became the first jurisdiction in North America to install a stationary photo radar speeding reduction camera, located in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE. The MPD has operated a fleet of mobile photo radar vehicles, now totaling eight, since the summer of 2001. The technology has contributed to dramatic reductions in speeding in the photo radar enforcement zones (see below) and a reduction in speeding-related traffic fatalities over the past four years.

① Read the news release announcing the new speeding reduction locations at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3075>

① The DC Council's Judiciary Committee will a public roundtable to explore the MPDC's use of red-light and photo radar speed cameras in protecting public safety, on Wednesday, February 23, at 10:30 am, in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building. Those who wish to testify or submit written comments should contact Sanja Partalo, Legislative Analyst, at (202) 724-8779, or [spartalo@dccouncil.us](mailto:spartalo@dccouncil.us).

## AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING REACHES RECORD LOW LEVEL IN DC'S PHOTO RADAR ENFORCEMENT ZONES

Aggressive speeding in DC's photo radar enforcement zones reached a record low rate during January 2005, with just 3.3 percent of all vehicles monitored by photo radar found to be speeding aggressively (that is, traveling above the threshold speed established for the program). By comparison, the aggressive speeding rate was 31 percent in July 2001 (initial warning period) and 25.5 percent in August 2001 (first month of ticketing). Over the past 3.5 years, aggressive speeding on DC roadways monitored by photo radar has been reduced from almost 1 in 3 motorists at the beginning of the program to about 1 in 30 motorists last month. Of the more than 1.1 million vehicles that passed through photo radar enforcement zones during January 2005, fewer than 39,000 were found to be speeding aggressively. In January 2002, by contrast, there were only 290,000 vehicles monitored by photo radar, but almost 44,000 violators detected. At the same time, average speeds on all DC roadways—residential streets, arteries and highways - are substantially lower today than they were when the program began more than three years ago. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was just 25.4 mph in January 2005—down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. Since August 2001, more than 1.2 million Notices of Infraction have been mailed and approximately 903,000 paid, resulting in fines of just over \$68 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

① For the latest results, including detailed statistics, on DC's photo radar speeding reduction program, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults\\_text.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtm)

① The MPDC's five-year red-light camera program also recorded impressive statistics in January. The latest figures show a 77 percent reduction in red-light running at the 39 intersections equipped with cameras, from nearly 38,000 at the beginning of the program to fewer than 8,500 violations last month. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm>

## TWO VIOLENT FUGITIVES ARRESTED IN PAST WEEK

Two suspects wanted in recent violent crimes in the District were arrested this past week. Jose Rene Robles, wanted in a February 1 homicide at 1815 Adams Mill Road, NW, was arrested without incident on February 16 at a residence in Rockville, Maryland. His arrest was made by members of the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, composed of members of the US Marshals Service and the MPDC. The 30-year-old suspect, a resident of the 1400 block of Park Road, NW, was returned to the District where he was arraigned on charges of Murder Two While Armed. He is accused of fatally stabbing a 26-year-old man inside a residence on Adams Mill Road, NW. That same day, members of the same Regional Fugitive Task Force, assisted by the Warrant Squad out of the US Marshals Service, Southern District of New York, arrested 51-year-old Robert Frank Taylor in New York City. Mr. Taylor is charged with First Degree Burglary While Armed in a brutal attack that took place during a January 25 burglary in the 1200 block of Decatur Street, NW. Mr. Taylor is accused of attacking and stabbing a 76-year-old woman who lived at the residence.

① For more information on the Robles arrest:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3074>

① For details on the Taylor arrest:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3073>

① The MPDC offers rewards of up to \$1,000 through its Crime Solvers program, as well as rewards of up to \$25,000 in homicide cases. Details on Crime Solvers, and listings of some of DC's "Most Wanted," are at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/solvers.shtm>

## SPOTLIGHT ON...ROC-CENTRAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

In the fall of 2002, Assistant Chief Brian K. Jordan initiated the Regional Operations Command-Central Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to create a mechanism to include area youth in community policing and problem solving. Additionally, the MPDC wanted to create partnerships with area youth that would expose them to people working in DC who have experienced similar upbringings to what they have. Jordan feels that this positive exposure to adult role models, will provide access to mentors and internships. This access will eventually help these young people make better career choices—ones that will help these youth to stay clear of the dangers on the street. Chief Jordan feels that, ultimately, these efforts will lead to increased opportunities for success for all the participants of the program. Since its inception, more than 100 youth have participated in various YAC-sponsored program activities that have included coat and food drives, literacy efforts and seminars on "girl gangs," teen dating and violence. The basic program has expanded to include a second YAC in ROC-North. Just recently, the two YAC groups came together in a "youth focus group" to assist the MPDC and the US Attorneys Office to prepare future Public Service Announcements aimed at reducing youth violence in DC.

① For more information on the Youth Advisory Council, and how you can get involved, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/yac/yac.shtm>

## NEWS & NOTES

**Chief Ramsey on "Live at Five" on Wednesday.** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues, and takes phone calls, from 5-6 pm on Wednesday, February 23, during his monthly interview with Latoya Foster on WOL-AM radio.

**Fifth District Robbery Suspects Sought.** The MPDC is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspect (or suspects) wanted in connection with a series of robberies that have occurred along 12th Street, NE, in the Fifth District since the beginning of the year. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3071>.

**Secure the Call Seeking Cell Phone Donations.** Got an old cell phone you no longer want? Bring it to any MPDC district station and drop it in the Secure the Call donation box. It will be refurbished and reprogrammed to dial 9-1-1, and then donated to individuals who can benefit from the phone. Learn more at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/stc.shtm>.

**Presidents' Day Schedules.** In observance of the Presidents' Day holiday, most administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Monday, February 21. Police patrols, emergency communications and other essential operations will be fully staffed on that date.

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 2/18/05
◆ 2005: 17	
◆ 2004: 27	
◆ % Change: -37.7%	
◆ Closure Rate: 58.8% (10 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 2/12/05
◆ Total: 912	
◆ Drugs: 163	
◆ Weapons: 18	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 17	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 41	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 2/12/05
◆ Arrests: 66	
◆ Curfew Violations: 31	
◆ Truants: 53	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 2/17/05
◆ February: 282	
◆ January: 198	
◆ 2005 Total: 480	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 2/18/05
◆ 2005: 4	
◆ 2004: 6	
◆ % Change: -33.3%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**